Interpellation.

(*f*) Are the Government aware that, on account of the non-storage of salt from last year at the Trivandrum Port Salt Depôt, the few selected merchants are forced to get salt from the factories by carts, paying high charges, etc., who consequently demand high price from the people ?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to transport salt profitably by sea and store it at the Trivandrum Depôt and thus relieve the people from paying unnecessarily high prices?

(*h*) Is it not a fact that the Salt Depôt Officers are issuing salt only to their few selected men, to which cause are attributed the high prices prevailing now in the markets of the State ? If so, will the Government be pleased to remove such unnecessary restrictions ?

(*i*) Are the Government aware that the salt now manufactured and sold in the market is of questionable quality and that there is a widespread feeling that it is unfit for human consumption ?

(*j*) Have the Government enquired into the reason for the excess of salt sometimes found in some depôts of the State after accurate weighments have been made to the purchasers ? If so, what are those reasons ?

(*k*) Will the Government be pleased to authorise the Port Salt Depôt Officers to issue salt to the people on receiving its cost in cash without insisting on the existing *chellan* system which puts the purchasers to considerable difficulties and inconvenience.

5. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many appointments were made during the last six years in the various Departments of the State and how many were given to Mahomedans, in accordance with the Government Circular sent to the Heads of Departments, directing them to give preferential treatment to Muslim applicants for posts ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the claims of Sahib Bahadur V. Chandamiah, the only Mahomedan officer found in the "list of officers of the State drawing salaries of Rs. 150 and above" and the legitimate claimant and senior officer by reason of his long and remarkable service in the Excise Department, have been overlooked in filling up the permanent vacancy of the Excise Commissionership of the State ?

(*c*) Are all the appointments and promotions made after 1914 in conformity with the rules prescribed by the Government in the Public Service Notification dated the 18th May 1914 ?

(*d*) Have the Government made any appointments and promotions by granting exemptions from the educational qualifications required as *per* the aforesaid rules ? If so, how many, and of those how many were in favour of Mahomedans ?

Answer.

(*f*) & (*g*) The matter is being examined.

(*h*) No. Salt is issued freely to anybody that pays for it.

(*i*) The answer is in the negative.

(*j*) Excesses are sometimes reported. The large weighing machines used in taking delivery from contractors do not register small differences and these machines have to be used many times over.

(*k*) As in the opinion of the Government the relaxation of the present rules would open the way to malpractices, the Government do not propose to take the action suggested by the member.

5. (*a*), (*c*) & (*d*). As in the opinion of the Government the labour involved in the compilation of the statistics asked for would be disproportionate to the value of the information to be obtained, the Government do not propose to call for the information required by the member. With regard to clause (*a*) it is pointed out that the Circular was issued five and not six years ago; and with regard to clause (*d*) the member is informed that exemptions from the possession of the educational qualifications have been granted in a few cases.

(*b*) When making an appointment, Government choose the person who in their opinion is the most suitable for the place. Government do not propose to discuss the reasons guiding them in the making of any particular appointment.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly